

Couple leave Florida, head toward family ties

Relocating allowed daughters to get to know their relatives.

By Lori Johnston
For the A.J.C.

It turned out to be a small world after all for Donna Foster, who works for Walt Disney World. She was able to move with her family to Atlanta and still telecommute for the company.

Foster, who grew up in Florida, looked forward to living in her husband David's hometown, where they and their 4-year-old daughter, Robyn, could see the seasons change.

Why Atlanta?

The Fosters, who adopted Robyn from China in 2010, and plan to adopt again, desired to move closer to family.

The couple put their home, located just south of Walt Disney World, on the market in 2012. They received an offer that fell through two days before they were supposed to close. Another offer, from a buyer who happened to be from Georgia and willing to purchase the home for cash, came in a week later.

Putting down roots

The Fosters first looked at homes in northern suburbs. When David was hired as the technical director for the Murray Arts Center at Mount Paran Christian School in Kennesaw, the couple focused on homes in Cobb County. At night, after her daughter went to bed, Donna would search real estate listings on her iPad.

Working with Cindy Wallace, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, the couple desired four bedrooms and a separate space



David and Donna Foster's Acworth home. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER OJQUENDO



David and Donna Foster with their daughter, Robyn, in front of their Acworth home.

for Donna's home office. Donna also had specific requirements for the floor plan.

"I was looking for a two-story home, but I wanted my master on the second floor. I didn't want to be separated from the girls," Donna said. "I found the newer homes tend to have a master on the main, which is not something we were interested in, especially if you're adopting a young one."

A four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home in Acworth of-

fered that setup. The cul-de-sac home was built in 1989 and included a finished room in the basement and a screened porch.

The family moved into the home, which is just a 15-minute commute for David, in February. Since then, the Fosters have enjoyed seeing Robyn get to know their family. Atlanta attractions such as rooting for the Braves at Turner Field and seeing shows at the Fox Theatre, where David worked in



The family room includes a brick fireplace and room to spread out and relax.



A deck offers cozy outdoor space and leads to a spacious, fenced backyard.

high school, also appealed to them. They are members of the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw and the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta.

Relocation tip

Bring perspective from other places you've lived around the country. After experiencing Florida hurricanes such as Charley, Jeanne and Frances in 2004, Donna sought a basement to protect them against

tornadoes and other storms. "I never had a basement growing up. We did hurricanes in a closet," she said.

Newcomer Living is a new feature that will appear regularly in Homefinder. If you moved to the Atlanta area and bought a residence in 2013, and are willing to share your story, contact Lori Johnston at lori@fastcopy.biz.